WRESTLING MAT

LEADING WRESTLING MAGAZINE

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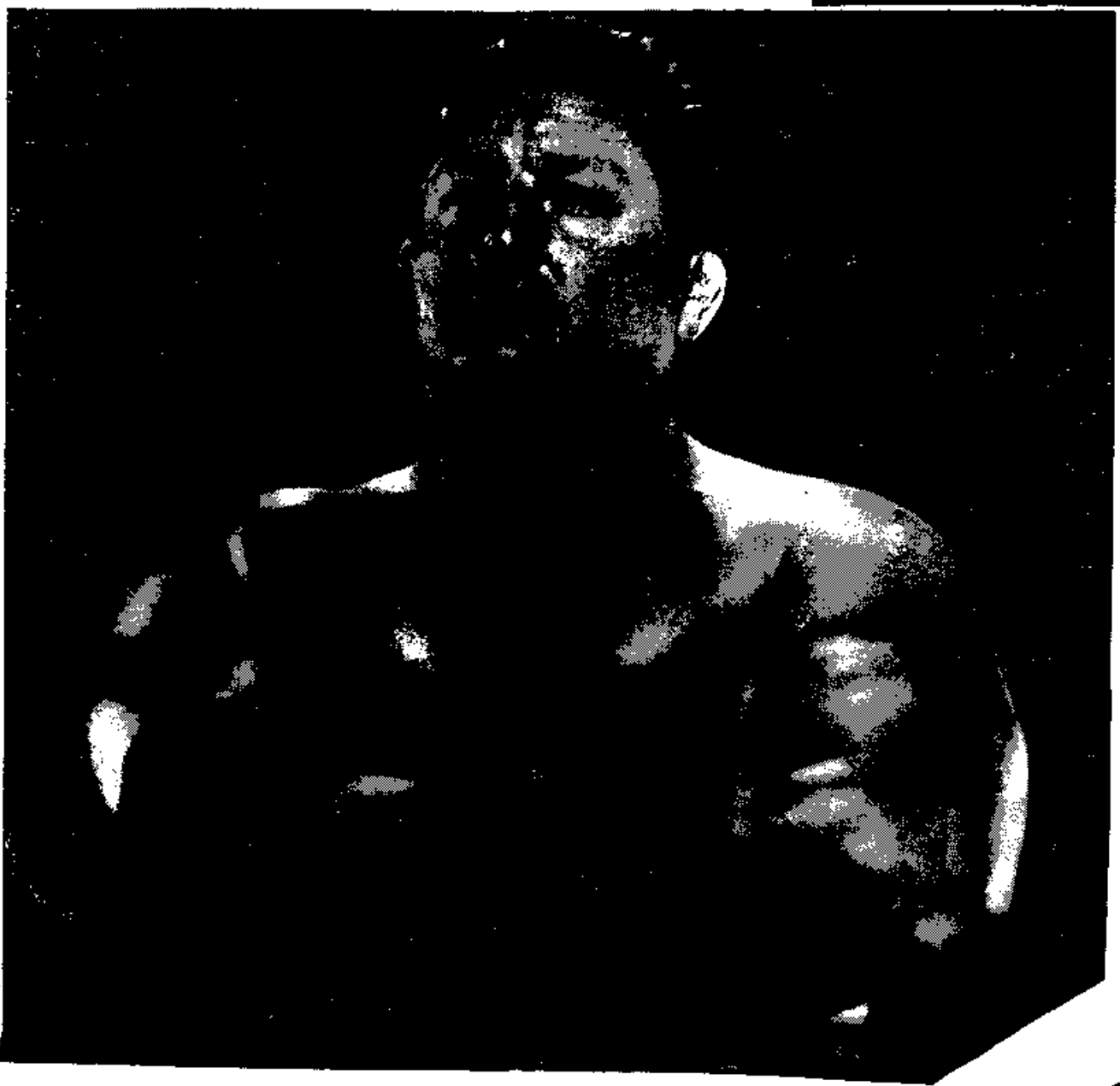
OCTOBER 1950

COVER PICTURE

★YUKON ERIC

Inside GENE STANLEE JOFFRE L'HEUREUX
FRANCIS GREGORY



Editorial

WRESTLING REVIVAL!!

THE tremendous wave of interest and enthusiasm that has swept the wrestling world since the end of the war has brought about a revival in the sport that is without precedent. In every city, in every province and state on the North American continent, and throughout Europe, stadiums are being built to cope with the ever-growing mass of wrestling fans who want to enjoy the oldest, and greatest sport in the world.

Oil millionaire McCarthy of Texas, has erected several, and right now he is building more in several of the larger cities of Texas. In Milwaukee a huge arena, at the cost of five and a half million dollars has been erected which wrestling fans are mainly paying for. In England, France, and other countries it is the same story.

In the U.S.A. over twenty four million people annualy attend wrestling shows. It leads on all television programmes as the most popular turn. In Canada, the best wrestlers of the world contest before packed houses three times weekly in Montreal alone. A $16,000 to $30,000 gate in Montreal is not uncommon.

At a wrestling bout any man or woman may watch and yell their head off without losing their dignity. They can let off steam in boos or cheers which is one of the best safety valves to nervous tension, and everybody loves it. Women attend wrestling bouts in greater numbers than they do boxing. They see manhood in his physical, primitive glory without the bloodiness, and brutality that goes with boxing. Wrestling is a real he-man's game, and a real she-woman's game, which is the answer to its vast and increasing popularity.

To-day the sporting public has broadened its mental attitude. No longer does local, provincial, or national favouritism and prejudice exist in wrestling. As never before, grappling stars from every country in the world are welcomed to every arena and given the same sporting reception as was once only given to a local favourite.

MAT magazine is performing a service of great importance to wrestling. In its columns and pages it brings to your notice all the best men in the sport. It makes you acquainted with their history, record and standing. It acquaints you with wrestlers you would never otherwise know about, and there is nothing a wrestling fan likes to know more about than who's who in wrestling. When a new name comes up these pages have already told you all about him. You know from this what his chances are with your favourite. You watch for their pet holds, and your favourite's counters.

MAT brings the wrestling news of the world right into your drawing room. In our efforts to perform a top job we invite your suggestions. Tell us what you think of any wrestler, or any bout you witness. Tell us of any likely lad you may know who wants a chance to prove his mettle on the mat. We like to know and so do the promoters. Our job is to serve wrestling and wrestling public as they want to be served.

If you have a picture, a story of a wrestler, past or present, send it to us. We are always glad to publish anything of interest.

We welcome and urge all promoters, managers and wrestlers to send in to us news and stories, with photographs, mats, or cuts.

We want to know about the newcomers as well as of the veterans of the mat. We want to publish their pictures so that our readers can become familiar with these eager new matmen, and watch their progress as they climb the ladder to wrestling fame.

Wrestling is the king of sports and appeals to every normal, healthy minded man and woman, and we of MAT magazine will continue to play our part.

Send a copy of MAT to your wrestling friends. Help the wrestling revival to grow bigger and better in every way, and help keep our sport right at the very top of the sporting ladder.

Norman F. Berry

MAT

The World's Leading Wrestling Journal

VOL. 4. No. 8 Published Monthly

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In the event of difficulty in obtaining a regular copy of MAT, ask your newsagent to write us at the above address.

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MAT is available throughout Great Britain, and via all British bookstalls on the Continent. It is also on sale in Canada and the United States of America. Subscriptions are accepted by us, and the rates of subscriptions are as follows:—

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Distributive agencies in all parts of Great Britain and North America are invited to contact us with a view to the wider distribution of MAT.

Correspondence on wrestling matters from all parts of the world is welcome at our office.

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JOHNNY STEAD of Bradford, ex-amateur champion of Great Britain, is willing to back himself against any lightweight in Great Britain, and here he is doing just that at Wakefield. The picture shows Mr. Harry Watson, popular Wakefield sportsman and wrestling patron, receiving a sidestake of £100 from Johnny Stead, with Mr. A. Farrar, well known Northern M.C., making up the group. Stead has made a phenomenal rise since coming into the professional ranks, and aims at becoming Lightweight Champion of Great Britain just as soon as possible. At present the title is held by Alan Colbeck of Wakefield.

Did you know....

That **ALF ROBINSON,** Manchester's heavyweight wrestler, is an expert authority on tropical fish, and has extensive breeding plant in which he breeds many rare specimens? Alf has been in Vienna recently, and our office has received many letters from fans on the sterling qualities he has displayed. A great welcome is assured if he decides to go there again.

GEORGE KIDD is starting to work on a 20,000 word manuscript of his life, and his rise to the top of the Lightweight ranks? It should make very interesting reading, for he has travelled all over the place and has met every wrestler worth meeting.

ERIC TAYLOR, young Bradford wrestler, now serving in H.M. Forces, and due for release in the not too distant future, has added a stone in weight?

PHIL SIKI, coloured heavyweight, is at present meeting with considerable success in Germany.

CLIFF GREEN, middleweight wrestler, who was a familiar figure in British rings a few years ago, is now resident in the U.S.A.? Says he likes it, too.

MAURICE LETCHFORD is now promoting wrestling in Dublin?

NORMAN WALSH, British and European Light-Heavyweight Champion, has received the highest offer ever made to a British wrestler to wrestle in Canada and the U.S.A.?

ROY McLARTY is planning to return to England very shortly?

CHARLIE GREEN is topping bills throughout South Africa?

ERNIE KINGSTON is an expert horseman, and gives riding lessons at a famous northern holiday camp?

Promoter **HAZLETINE** of West Hartlepool must be the luckiest man in wrestling. His Friday promotions at the Engineers' Club have enjoyed fine weather when others have been tearing their hair out, and it appears that he can arrange the weather to suit himself.

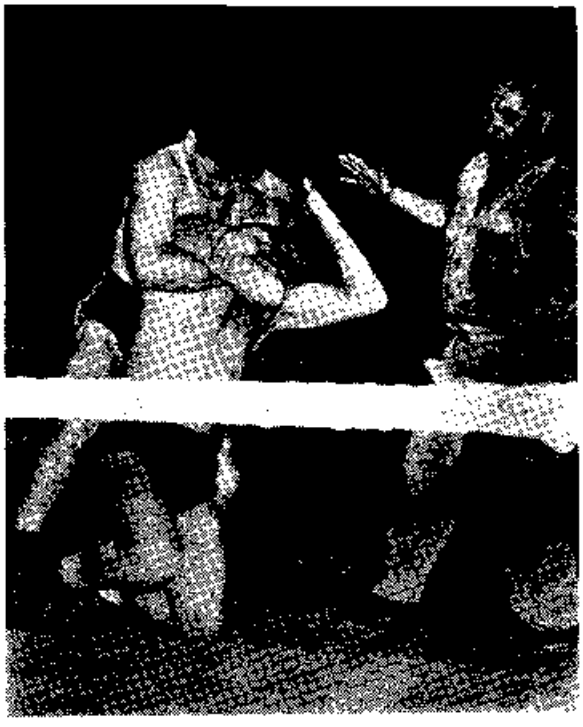
IVANOV STEVANOVIC (Yugo-Slavia) is a man who means business.

"SPIDER" GEORGE BUSFIELD, a lightweight who really enjoys his wrestling. Always game for a bit of fun in the ring, he is nevertheless a great wrestler. Business interests have kept him out of wrestling for too long now, and the fans are hoping to see him much more often in the near future.

ROGER MOLLET (France) is all out to pin his adversary, with the ref. in close attendance and ready to start counting.

LET'S GOSSIP!

By JOE BELANGER.



PAUL NELSON of Quebec has a cobra hold on his opponent in a recent Montreal contest.

CANADA has every reason to be proud of its manhood. The pages of MAT have told you of the many stars of matcraft who are top attractions in the U.S.A. who are native sons of this Dominion. But I bet you did not know that **CHIEF DON EAGLE** is a Canuck. Don is one of the hottest in wrestling, and one of the highest paid performers in the game. Don is a Caughnewage Indian. Born on the Indian reservation near Cornwall, Ont. Most experts consider Don the biggest threat to the world's wrestling title.

TIGER JOGINDER, the great Hindu grappler, offers $1,000 to any Yankee wrestler who can stay on the mat with him undefeated for 40 minutes. So far there has been no takers. It is pretty hard to imagine his Hindu bluff has not been called, with all the powerful matmen that are active on the American mat, and eager to pick up any stray dollars.

No one ever thought when the twenty year old **GENE DUBUQUE** of Brooklyn, N.Y., won the title of Best Built Man in New York, he would, within two years be a top wrestling star. Built like an Athenian athlete with the strength of a Hercules, this determined youngster has made the veterans of the mat sit up and take notice. His fine physique and wrestling skill have made him a prime favourite with the lady fans.

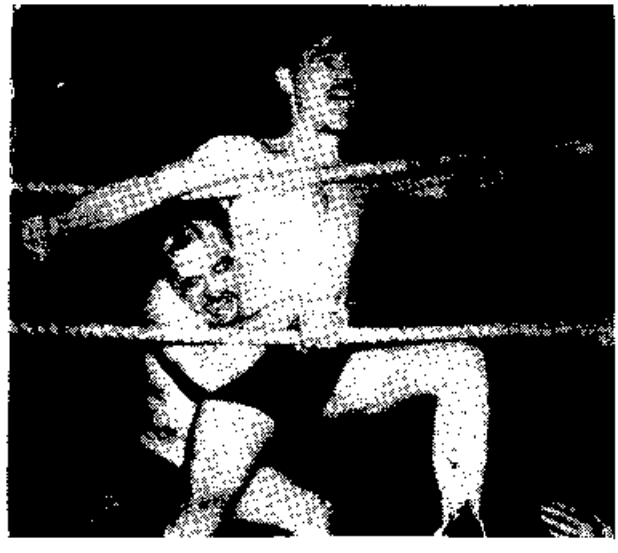
Some of you may remember the **THE GREAT GAMA** of India, whom even the great **GEORGES HACKENSCHMIDT** and **FRANK GOTCH** feared to meet. He is 70 years of age now, and they say he still keeps in top form wrestling with fifteen different opponents daily.

Speaking of the Great Gama, I wonder what became of his younger brother **IMAN.** He only weighed 182 lbs. at his best, but he bowled them over like ninepins. I remember when he flattened John Lemm of Switzerland, in a little over one minute for each fall.

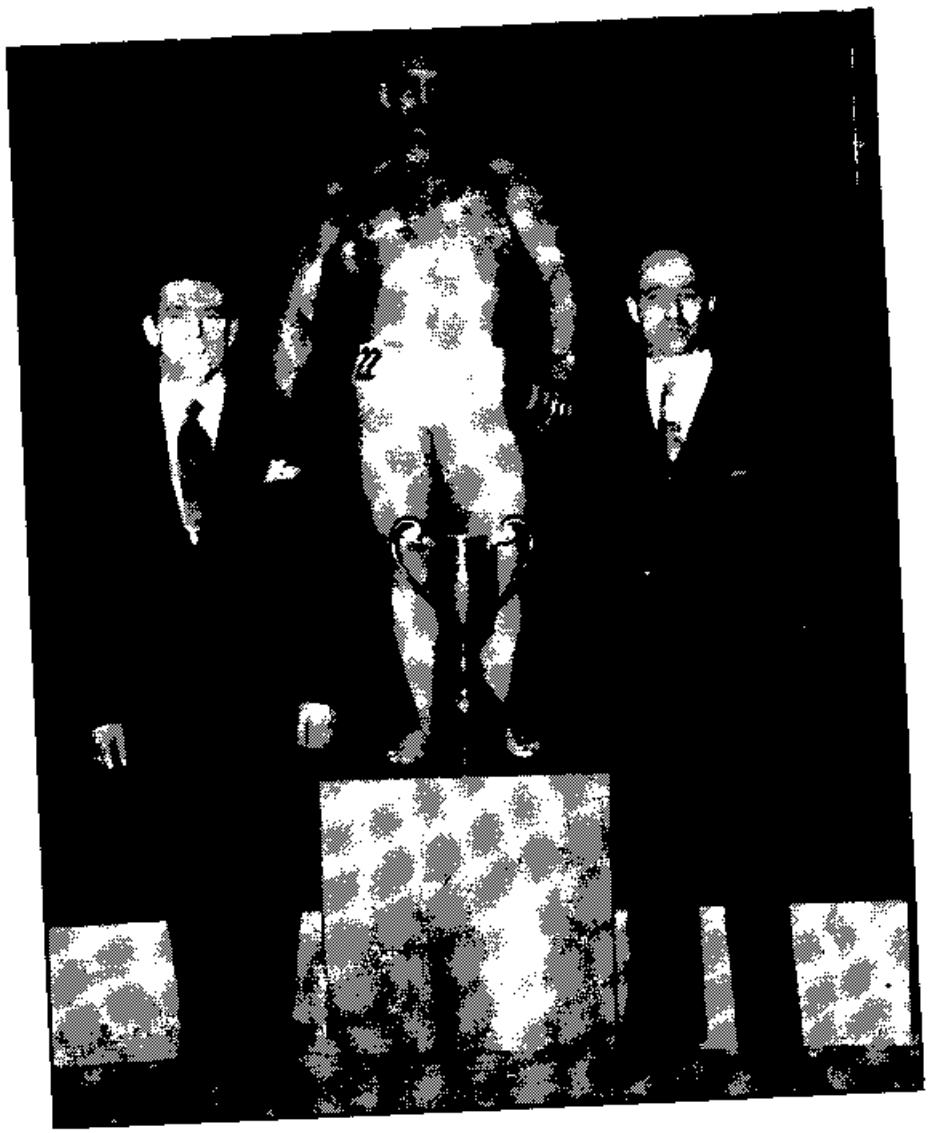
Americans look with envy on Montreal as the hottest wrestling town on the continent. It made their mouth water to hear **YVON ROBERT,** the popular Montreal grappler, draw a $30,000 gate, in the old home town.

Talk about ambition! Oil millionaire **GLEN McCARTHY** is stacking a huge bankroll behind the rasslin' game in Texas, building new arenas in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Galveston, where he aims to bring the world's best matmen. Glen sure loves the wrestling game, and is always a ringside cheer leader.

A new wrestling sensation of dazzling appearance has stormed the enthusiasm of mat fans. Known as the **GREAT ATLAS,** he is none other than **MORRIE SHAPIRO** of Brooklyn, N.Y. Built like a Titan, and terrifically strong, he has a big opinion of himself, which holds a lot of justification, but the



Clearly a case of mistaken identity! HENRY DUFRESNE seizes his son, Emile, in a tag match held in the Montreal Stadium. They won, but at the same time it's best to reserve your vigour for the guy in the other corner. Don't you think so



In the centre we see **GERARD GOUGEON** of Montreal, who recently was awarded the title of "Mr. Montreal" for 1950. Competing against more than 50 sensationally built athletes, Gougeon won an unanimous decision from the judges. At left we see **BEN WEIDER** organiser of the show, and at right we see Dr. **NORES MARTINEZ**, the Argentine Ambassador to Canada, who presented the cup to the winner on behalf of the Argentine Embassy.

thing that appeals to the promoters is his colourful style, which they say outdoes Gorgeous George as a box office attraction. That means he is really good.

You likely do not know that **TARZAN WHITE**, also a Canadian, apart from being the most savage grappler on the mat, is, off the mat, a real quiet spoken gentleman. He is popular as a dinner guest for his witty stories, and his fine singing voice.

Did you know that psychiatrists say that watching a wrestling bout is the best form of relaxation. That fans who boo, hoot and yell, are letting off steam and doing their nerves good, freshening themselves for their daily work. These "cheer-hooters" are never mental cases say the psychiatrists, but healthy minded folk who know how to relieve their feelings. You may have some friend you know who would find it worthwhile to try it out. One never gets arrested for letting off steam at a wrestling bout.

Statistics show that an average of over 24 million people regularly attend wrestling bouts, annually, in the U.S.A. This beats boxing attendance to a frazzle for attendance. Why not? It's a hot sport.

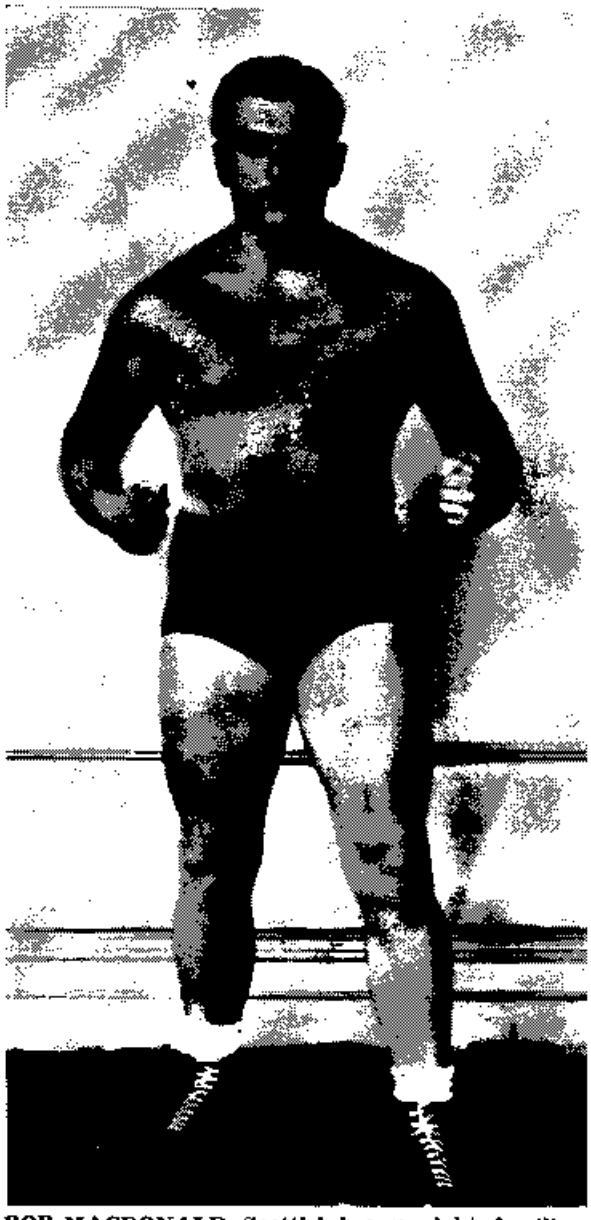
BENNY TRUDELL, another Canadian from the northern parts, where he began life as a lumberjack, has grown a swanky moustache, and goatee to add to his mat appearance. It will not make him any better liked, for he has always been well liked by the American fans.

BOBBY BRUNS, the dynamic Chicagoan, is booked to mix it up on the mat with **PIERRE LASALLE** of Canada. American experts say the 229lb. Illinois battler will have to be a superman to handle the electrified Canadian.

MILDRED BURKE, Lady World's Wrestling Champion, whom we have written about in these pages, is scheduled to handle **ROUGHHOUSE MAE WESTON** at the new five and a half million dollar arena at Milwaukee. **JACK DEMPSEY**, ex-world's boxing champion, and top wrestling referee, will referee the bout between these two female mat stars.

(Continued on Page 23).

THE SECRET OF A GREAT WRESTLER'S SUCCESS



BOB MACDONALD. Scottish heavyweight, familiar to all British fans, and known to many in Canada through his fine performances in Montreal a few years ago. Bob is a cool sort of a chap in ordinary life and easy to get along with, but if opponents try any slick moves out on him, it isn't long before the balloon goes up.' MacDonald has a tremendous reputation as a 100 per cent battler who repays in kind any of the 'rough boys' of wrestledom.

WRESTLING fans often ask, "What is it that makes some wrestlers so much better than others?"

It is an intelligent question, because some many wrestlers are head and shoulders over the rest not only in their knowledge and wrestling tactics, but also in their physical condition. The answer to it all rests in the quality of their physical condition, which means the quality of their body. And these assets can only be acquired from a period of training that antedates their entry into the sport and their willingness to keep up this training even when they have gained fame and fortune. A man may be naturally strong and adept at rough and tumble wrestling, but that will never make him a champion. Another may be hot in his scientific knowledge of the game, but if he lacks the backing of a strong, flexible body, with muscles capable of enduring hours of stress and mauling on the mat, he also will never become a champion.

A number of wrestlers are fortunate in securing the right kind of training experience at the very beginning, which short cuts their climb to success.

Weight training is the fundamental basis for building a wrestler's body to the state of perfection needed to stand the gruelling that a major wrestling bout demands. The best wrestlers I have met during my lifetime have all been barbell devotees. With the special type of training provided by adjustable barbells and dumbbells, the body is progressively built with powerful muscle that is tempered with the sort of flexibility that protects the grappler from exhaustion by the muscle twisting holds applied in a contest. Constitutionally, they also acquire the stamina which gives them the endurance to wrestle for hours on end.

Training the human body with a progressive weight system is not only a matter of developing muscularity. The organic stimulation and health toning obtained has a healthy reaction on the mind, making one keenly alert and observant with the result that the properly trained wrestler is a quick thinker and a fast

mover on the mat. He outthinks, out speeds, and out powers opponents to their downfall. You can prove this by checking on the wrestlers who have built their success on a preparatory body building programme. Gene Stanlee, the "Mr. America" of the mat is an outstanding example: and no less are Bobby Managoff, Yukon Eric, the Sharpe Brothers, Jim Londos, Morris Shapiro, Bob MacDonald, Norman Walsh, The Farmer, George Kidd, Ed. Don George, Gus Sonnenberg, Gene Dubuque, adn Primo Carnera, ex-world's boxing champion. He was a top flight weight lifter, as were Jim Londos and Henry Milo Stienborn.

So important is preparatory body building by weight training that promoters checking up on a new star seriously enquire into their training background. Once they know they have been weight trained, they are more acceptable in the promoters' eyes. Managers are alive to the constant need of their wrestlers' fitness, and require them to spend time daily with the weights. Weight training to-day, as in the past when Georges Hackenschmidt, George Lurich, and George F. Jowett were the kingpins on the mat is considered absolutely necessary. The old champions, like the present champions, were all weight trained with barbells and dumbbells, and everyone of them were noted for their prodigious strength and amazing endurance.

The new champions of tomorrow, if they are to equal the performances of the past and present great matmen, will perforce need to be weight trained, otherwise they will never reach the heights of wrestling.

The public loves to see a finely muscled body. They know without being told that it has the 'goods.' Weight training is the secret not only of the great wrestlers' success, but of every athlete who needs strength, speed and endurance to take him to a top ranking champion.

It takes strength to pick a man up bodily off the mat and toss him to a fall, and lots of muscular endurance to keep it up. So when you see a wrestler of this type tossing his opponent around like a basketball, you can bet your boots that he has had plenty of weight training with barbell and dumbbells.

Weight training made the champions of the past, and the champions of to-day, and it will make the champions of tomorrow who will thrill generations of future wrestling fans.

Still supreme at the head of the lightweight division is Scotchman GEORGE KIDD of Dundee, Lightweight Champion of the World. There are no rough edges on Kidd, who simply oozes with confidence. He has a multiplicity of holds and moves that cannot be reproduced by many in the heavier ranks of wrestling, and there must be many heavyweights who consider it an act of supreme charity that his weight rules out any chance of their meeting in the ring.

Wrestling every Tuesday Night **ST. NICHOLAS ARENA**
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MEET ONE OF THE GREATEST STARS IN WRESTLEDOM—

GENE (Mr. AMERICA) STANLEE

By TONY LANZA.

GENE "THE BODY" STANLEE ("Mr. America")

WITH so many colourful wrestlers demonstrating their wares on the mat to-day, it is pretty difficult to single out one and say, "Here is the most popular wrestler in the game to-day." It is a decision only the wrestling fans can make, and they have already done it by naming **GENE STANLEE**, ten to one, as the most popular grappler of the day. This statement was made by none other than Promoter Johnson of Madison Square Gardens, and the Yankee Stadium. Promoter Johnson is a realist. He believes in giving the sporting public just what they want, and in order to line up the best matmen for his forthcoming shows at the Garden, he sent out a survey, with the result he was flooded with fan mail that gave Genial Gene the vote by the stated ten to one. From this you can plainly see that Gene Stanlee is by far the most popular wrestler in America to-day by the acclaim of the public, and in a big way. For this reason Gene is from now on headlining the feature shows at the Gardens, in New York City.

One is intrigued to know what makes a man so popular. Well, you do not have to go far to find out where Gene is concerned. He is everything you would want to find in a clean, upright athlete. He lives clean, he acts clean, and he gives the best that is in him to his public no matter who his opponent may be.

Last year he won the title of the "Mr. America of Wrestling." He combines a handsome face with a beautiful symmetrically muscled body. Just like Sinatra made the gals swoon with his voice, so does Gene woo the female wrestling fans. Not that he is a Casanova. By no means. He is a real he-man's man from the crown of his handsome blonde head to the soles of his swift moving feet.

Gene stands six feet tall, and weighs 235lbs. ringside bodyweight, with a 51in. chest, 32in. waist, 18in. arms, 18in. neck and 18in. calves. From this you can gather he is a real stalwart of a man, and has the strength to go with it. He trains with weights two hours daily, three days a week. He is always in such superb physical condition he never feels the need of a rest between bouts. It might surprise you to know that he regularly works at his profession as a mechanical engineer, in Buffalo, N.Y. He is only 26 years old to-day, and has been wrestling professionally for the last ten years. Believe it or not, but he started wrestling at the age of eight, when he won a Playground Tournament in Chicago. He was born in that city, and comes from a very athletic family. He has three brothers who wrestle, besides himself, and he has excelled in pretty near all sports, playing football for a while with the scrub team of the Chicago Bears. He is a graduate of North-western University, where he starred in athletics.

In the late war he served four years in the Navy as a Machinists Mate First Class. While in the Navy he was accorded the title of the Navy's Strongest and Best Built Man. Even during the high pressure war service he always found time to keep up his training. He loves to train, just as he loves to wrestle. He is not a rough house wrestler, and often absorbs a lot of punishment from certain tough opponents before he begins to give them back some of their own medicine. This he can do with a vengeance when he does it. He is slow to start, but when he gets wound up he is a veritable cyclone in action. His volcanic outbursts of strength tears opponents off their feet like a thunderbolt uproots a tree. His pet holds are the Spinning toe-hold, and

the airplane spin. Gene never hesitates about an opponent like some do. Any man, big or small, handsome or ugly, is suitable to him.

Here are some of the astounding feats of strength Gene is capable of performing at a moment's notice. He can chin himself with a 150lb. man hanging from his waist. Lift 215lbs. overhead with one hand, and 350lbs. with two hands, in a clean and jerk movement. He can lift 600lbs. off the floor and stand up with it, and do a deep knee bend five times with 350lbs. resting across his shoulders. He can do a leg press fifteen times with 1000lbs., and is the heaviest man known to be able to perform a one arm chin. These feats are comparable with the world's best trained weight lifters. What he could do if he concentrated on a weight lifting training programme is hard to conceive. One is apt to believe there would be a new world's weight lifting champion, and his name would be Gene Stanlee.

He has wrestled in all the principal cities of America, including Toronto and Montreal. He has wrestled abroad in Hawaii, South Africa, Iran, Algiers, and the Philippines.

His favourite costume is a leopard's skin robe, and he wrestles in white trunks. Some of the top matmen he has met are: **STRANGLER LEWIS, JIM LONDOS, IVAN RASPUTIN, LEN HALL, GORGEOUS GEORGE, TONY ROCCA, FRANK SEXTON, PRIMO CARNERA,** and **WHIPPER WATSON**

Such redoubtable opponents are enough to prove that Gene is built of real championship timber. He is determined to become the world's champion, and ready any time to repeat his mat argument with Frank Sexton.

Like all wrestlers, he has had his injuries. He has had his leg broken twice. His right side paralized for six months, and lost his voice for two months from a severe throat hold. Anyone who thinks wrestling is made up of frame-ups need only consider these injuries to learn that they are never that, but real knock 'em down, and drag 'em out battles.

Big and strong as Gene is, he has met opponents possessed of enough abnormal strength to pick him up like a baby and toss him out of the ring. **BOB WAGNER** did just that several times during their bout in Rochester, N.Y. He admits on occasion he has been thrown out of the ring at least three times in one night.

Wrestlers are not gentle by any means. They have to be tough, and have guts. Wrestlers, like wrestling fans, hate cry babies, so you never hear a grappler sqwauck over the way he may be manhandled. He just gets a little madder himself and tries to be tougher.

Gene has a keen interest in youth, and is always on hand to make an appearance to help them in any way he can. He runs a column in the Sports Pictorial Review, captioned "The Stanlee Steamer." It invites all fans to get on board with him to be helpful to others.

He is a hero among the youngsters naturally, and the female fans just worship him. They pack the house every time he wrestles. But he is not married, and admits he does not have a 'steady girl,' but is still looking around for "the right one."

Apart from receiving the biggest wrestling fan mail, he receives daily all sorts of presents from neck-ties to kitchen utensils. No one can say that the wrestling life of Gene Stanlee, professionally, or in private life, is uninteresting. He is a natural glamour boy, without the usual conceit. Nature just made him the "Darling of the Ring." He can't help it, but lives up to his reputation like a gentleman.

He has not met the young giant **KOWALSKI** yet, to my knowledge. But I would certainly love to see those two Goliaths of the Mat clash. The Pole stands 6ft. 7in. tall, and strips at 272, as lean as a panther. His strength and speed are out of this world, and he is mowing them down in his stride to reach the title. The two will have to meet sooner or later, and while I recognise that a death battle between Gene and the Wild Bull of the Argentine will be a battle of the century, I somehow think a last ditch scrap between Gene and Kowalski might be considered a battle of the ages. They are both young and primed with a fierce enthusiasm which only youth provides. This alone would make the battle a maelstrom of physical energy. Of course, we cannot pass over **FRANK SEXTON** easily. Sexton is a real humdinger. But a bout between Gene and he would not have the same blood thrilling excitement as a clash with the Pole. Frank is a veteran of the mat, and wrestles like any experienced general out to win a battle, cautiously, wily, but deadly. Gene's chances must be good, or an experienced, cagy promoter like Johnson of the Gardens, would not stack his pile on the "Mr. America" of Wrestling fame. Anyhow, from this association we know that from now on Gene has a tough line-up ahead of him. Promoter Johnson will make him earn his winnings, and that means bouts with **ROCCA, CARNERA, THESZ, MANAGOFF, CHIEF DON GEORGE, KOWALSKI** and **SEXTON.**

We all wish Gene luck.

WRESTLING EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT **MET ARENA**
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THE PRESS AND THE NEWS-PRINT SHORTAGE.

Your Editor examines the claims of the national press in relation to the present shortage

How interesting to hear the arguments put forward by the daily newspapers in face of a threatened newsprint shortage. Motivated only by the interests of the public—ahem!—they are deeply concerned at the possibility of a reduction in the size of newspapers. It is indeed gratifying to know there are people who are so imbued with the spirit of public service. In fact, they appear to be so concerned that the public may have to accept a reduction in the size of its papers, that to listen to their long perorations one would begin to think that those who own the press had given everything they possess just in order to provide the British people with something to read, and that the business side simply did not exist. The truth is quite the reverse.

They point out, in conversation and correspondence with governmental departments, that one of the reasons for the threatened shortage is the recent decision to free magazines from paper restrictions. Then they go on to plead with the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that daily and weekly newspapers may avoid any reduction in the number of pages per paper. How else, they say, can we keep a well informed public opinion? In other words, government inactivity and a welcome degree of freedom for magazine publishers have together resulted in a shortage of newsprint. That's what the newspapers are saying, and though they don't put it quite so bluntly they imply by neglecting to champion the rights of magazines to access to more paper, they would be quite happy if a degree of restriction were imposed on magazines in favour of daily newspapers. But don't touch newspapes!! My goodness, no! Magazines, by all means, but for charity's sake keep off newspapers. Don't you know what a vital public service they perform, and have you no consideration for the army of altruistic editors and journalists and newspaper owners who toil themselves to the grave to bring the news to your breakfast table at 1½d. a time?

Judging from the many statements in the past that have appeared in the various newspapers, freedom of publication is at the very basis of democracy, and to deny this is the stamp of the tyrant. After all, it was argued by the newspapers, if persons or groups of persons are denied the right of publication, how can you call that freedom? Very powerful arguments were presented—and still are—on behalf of freedom of publication. And so far as they go, we endorse these opinions to the full. Yes, freedom of publication is absolutely essential in a democracy. Fleet Street says so, the British public says so, and MAT says so! But these theories, like all other theories, are mere nothings until they are put into practice. It is in the practice that theories are put to the test.

When Fleet Street is put to the test, faced with a reduction in the supply of newsprint, do they plead for additional newsprint so that freedom of publication can be upheld? After all they say they believe in such things, and they must not blame us for expecting them to live up to their oft professed principles. We say freedom of publication is essential. So do they. Alright then, how do they act when this vital question presents itself? Certainly not as one might expect them in view of their former statements. No sir! One of the main causes of the shortages, they say, is the easing of controls on magazines. They may claim that they were only repeating claims made by others. **But the fact that they did this without insisting at the same time that magazines also have important claims on paper supplies, is a very clear indication of where they stand in the matter.**

We recall the days not long ago when magazines were severely restricted by paper limitations, but we do not recall any special pleadings on our behalf in the press. Plenty of pleading on their own behalf, yes, but that's about all. Apparently their much vaunted principles on freedom of expression and of publication only extended to themselves, though if anyone else claimed similar rights they were quite welcome to them—providing they could get the paper! And as many new

publishers were unable to voice their claims because they were denied the paper with which to do it, one might have expected the daily press to take up the cudgels on their behalf, and insist that it was high time that publishers of magazines were freed from paper restrictions. But they didn't.

And to-day, when the position in regard to paper supplies is causing concern, the press is once again upholding the freedom of publication with loud voice—for itself! Very strange how this lop-sided conception of freedom coincides with their own particular interests. Maybe it's pure coincidence, of course, but it looks mighty pec————.

Actually, newspapers already are so large that in many cases they can't find enough news to fill them. Provincial papers are much better than the national ones, and generally speaking are clear of this criticism. But looking through the big dailies and weeklies one finds a great deal of the space taken up by all sorts of junk that would have been much better in the dustbin. Famous—or infamous—divorce cases, murder cases, stories in serial form which have no claim at all to news value, fortune tellers, strip cartoons of strip tease ladies, all occupy dominating positions in many of the 'big' papers, and the amount of copy that could be classified as news could easily be compressed into a single sheet. And yet we hear them appealing to the government to ensure their supplies in the public interest, and 'accusing' magazines of eating up supplies.

Assuming this latter remark to be true, it isn't a case for 'accusations' surely? Obviously the demand for current magazines is there, otherwise no-one would bother publishing them. And if people want to buy magazines, why shouldn't they? Don't the big papers believe in freedom of choice? We do, and before they start howling about news space, etc., they should make sure that the space they already have is fully utilized. In fact, if they left the sports items to the sports magazines, the murder yarns to various crime publishers, etc., etc., and the recipes to Mrs. Beeton, they would find they have adequate room to present the news in their columns. They have got so greedy that they take the whole lot in their stride and then calmly proceed to look on magazines as something we can well do without.

By all means let us have more paper in the country. We need it badly. **But let us make sure that it is allocated fairly. Newspapers are entitled to a fair share of it, but they are not the best judges of what constitutes a fair share, for apparently they think they are entitled to the lot. This must be flatly denied by us and by every other magazine publisher, just as it is the reading public, who prove by their reading habits that magazines are in great demand. If the position does deteriorate the paper supply problem must not be solved by a system of preferences advocated by interested parties. It ill becomes the Press to tacitly support repressive measures against magazines, even in the 'so called' public interest, for they may find themselves helping to establish a very elastic ruling that could well operate in reverse at some future date.**

More paper? Yes, for everyone! And if not possible, fair shares for all. That's our motto.

EDDIE BARKER is back from a successful tour of South Africa and after a brief rest will be in action again in British rings.

LARRY LAYCOCK may shortly take up residence in Glasgow. It is also rumoured that **LES KELLETT** may be domiciled in Newcastle in the near future. Marvellous what the opposite sex can do, don't you think?

CHIC PURVEY, Scottish Middleweight Champion, has a most unusual hobby for such an active man. He's a Kipling fan, and knows many poems of the former Poet Laureate off by heart.

PAT CURRY has left England for Spain, where he hopes to take a well earned rest. Spanish promoters, please note.

VIC HESSELLE, the all action Bolton heavyweight wrestler, has returned after a three months continental tour and is fit and ready for the coming season.

Norman Dove

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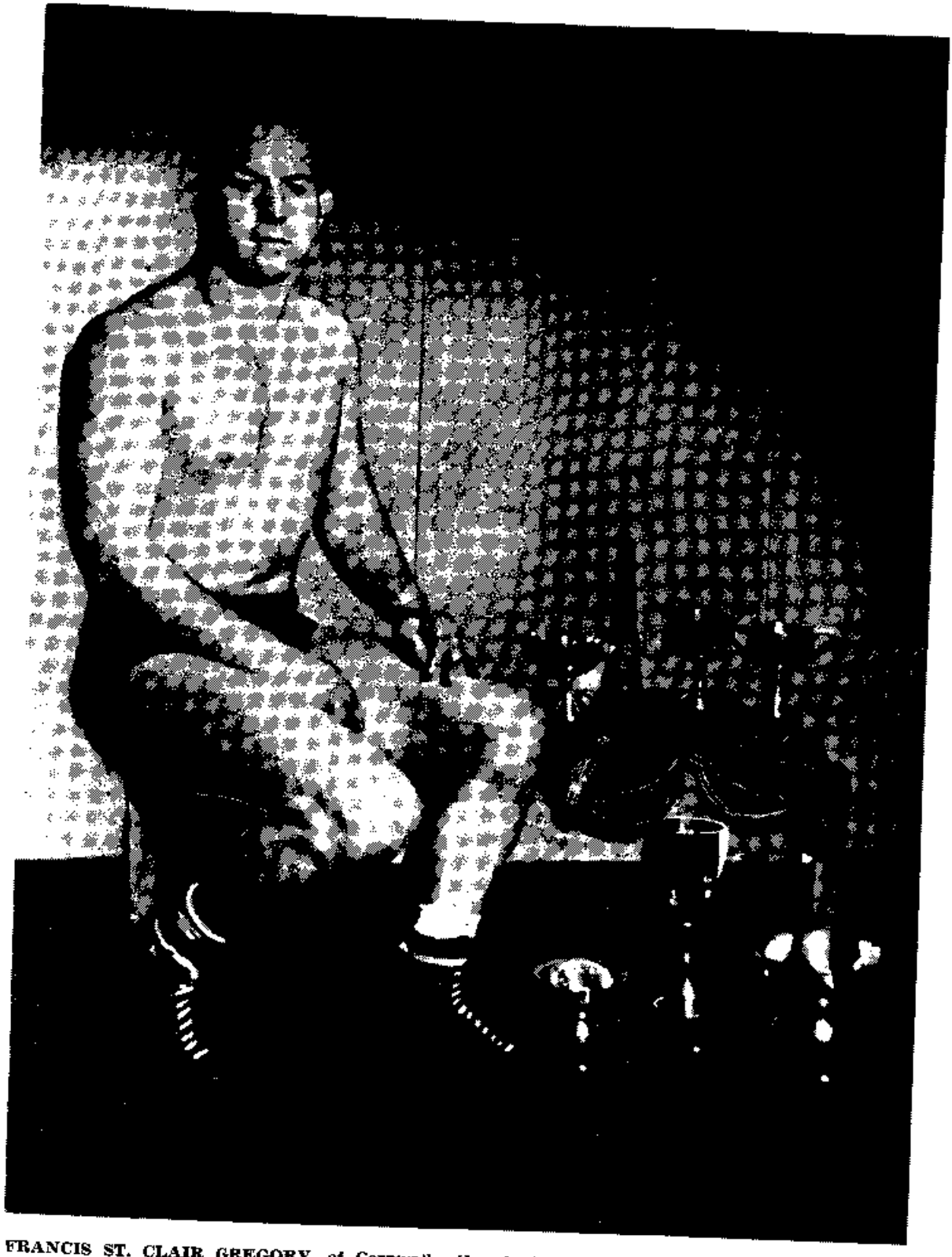
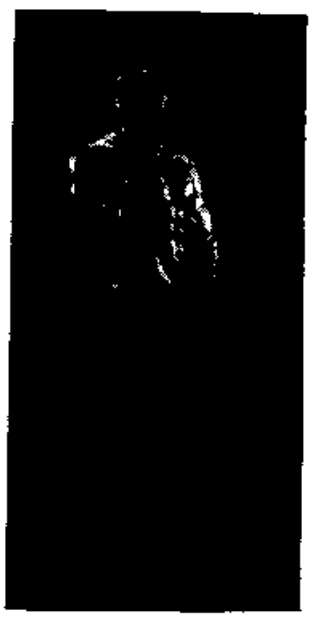


FRANCIS ST. CLAIR GREGORY, of Cornwall. Here he is with just a few of his trophies, collected in one of the greatest wrestling careers yet known. Not as showy as many others we could name, but as accomplished as any we can think of, when it comes to wrestling he can really produce the 'goods.' A great star, and one who could hold his own anywhere in the world.

HENRI "MILO" STIENBORN, one of the greatest of the old time wrestlers, is still active in wrestling. At present organising wrestling around the New York City area and Canada, he has some of the most famous names under contract. Himself a great champion, Milo can still give a good account of himself.

LOUIS LANGLOIS, all-round athlete and sensational wrestler of the Montreal Police Force. Note his extremely well developed body, it seems that more and more American and Canadian wrestlers are going in for heavy barbell training. It seems the public like a well developed rather than the fat sloppy type of wrestler.



OVILA NORMANDEAU, Montreal bodybuilder, who hopes to make a name for himself in wrestling circles.

Ladies pack Wrestling at Liverpool

By RUPERT RICE.

ONE of the surest signs of a worthwhile sport is the number of ladies who attend. In speedway racing, a sport which rose from practically nothing into an overnight sensation, the number of 'lady fans' almost equals that of the males.

BERT COLLINS of Huddersfield, although a wrestler of high standing, has almost forsaken his wrestling trunks in favour of the judicial post of referee, a position he fills with distinction. Bert does not always get full approval with all the fans (tell us a ref. who does, will you?) but he is recognised as one of the most efficient refs. in Great Britain.

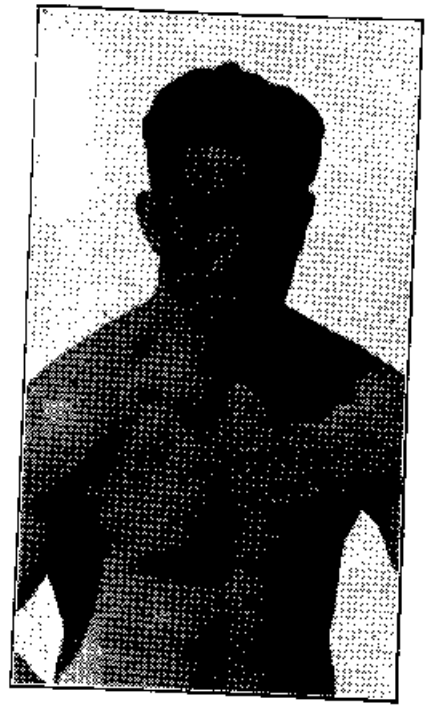
Boxing, Football, Cricket, have their lady followers, but nowhere near the same number as men. In boxing the ladies are mostly confined to the ringside and in football the fair sex are generally seen in the stands.

Wrestling however, despite its lack of press publicity, has a tremendous number of ladies witnessing it. This has had a great deal to do with the success of the sport. Wrestling, irrespective of the ugly name some caustic critics like to give it, has increased its prestige with the public, and consequently it is one of the few sports in this country which is on the up-grade, a great deal of its success is due to the fact that any young man of to-day can take his young lady along to see the grapplers in action without fear of her ears being assaulted with a mouthful of profanity, which is used too often in other sports. Candidly, I do not think it is the squire who takes the damsel to the wrestling contests, from what I know, it is the other way round, it is the lady who demands that her escort should take her, for there are no keener wrestling fans than the fair sex themselves.

This rather disposes of the critics cry, that wrestling is a base and brutal sport. If it were the ladies would not attend in the tremendous numbers they do.

Way back in 1935 when the late Bill Bankier opened up the Liverpool Stadium to wrestling, he confided in me, that could he get half-a-dozen ladies to attend his shows each week, success was assured. At his pressing request, my wife was the first lady to witness wrestling in Liverpool. It so happened the first time she attended, Jack Sherry, the famous American wrestler accidentally tossed the referee, Spider Harvey into her lap, irrespective of that incident however, the wife after conversation with some of the grapplers at the conclusion of the show described them as "highly intelligent and courteous athletes"—which was more than high praise coming from her.

(Continued on Page 25)



GRANVILLE LAWRENCE of Barnsley is a real activist in the ring, and is tremendously popular with the crowd.

POSITIVE HEALTH

Some comments by a doctor, well known to wrestlers in the North.

A BRISK walk in the rain across a heather covered moor, the feel of a crisp morning wind across the meadow, or simply loitering about the sands on a hot summer day—these are among the best things in life. They are free. To enjoy life more—it is necessary to be more fully alive.

Most people have an entirely negative attitude to physical fitness. If illness comes—treatment and advice will be taken—but otherwise no advice is wanted.

Most disease is avoidable—or preventable. Great strides have been made in public health—which is largely preventive practice to reduce disease among the community. This is a positive approach to physical fitness.

To get people interested in a subject it is almost always worthwhile to make a game of it. Wrestling is the game—positive physical fitness is the subject. Children always like a game and adults are grown up young animals strapped into a common mould by convention and habit. No-one will deny that physical training is good for health. However, things that are "good for us" always seem boring and not as attractive as "things which we like."

Wrestling is of itself interesting. As a game it may be said to consist of modes of attack, and methods of evading or countering these attacks. Speed, weight and muscular power are of importance.

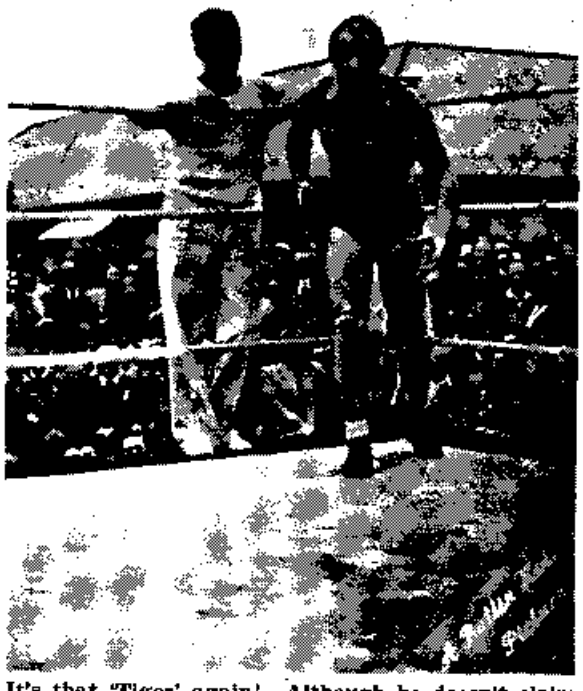
From a medical point of view, the result of a combat does not matter—in fact the loser is probably better off—for he may be stimulated to train harder in order to win the next time. The few broken bones and bruises do not matter either, as in a fit man these injuries repair easily. What does matter is the fact that—as a medical group wrestlers have a far greater resistance to disease than the average.

As it affects physical fitness—exact fairness in contest is absolutely essential. This is because the proper gradual development of muscular power, health and skill all come from striving to reach a little greater degree of efficiency necessary to overcome an evenly matched opponent.

Obviously, anything other than the most strict fair play, makes the whole thing a waste of time.

In training—it is not always possible to find an opponent just that little bit better. Cyclists use a pace-maker, an artificial aid or stimulant to go just a little faster.

Wrestling demands an all round development which is, I think, the finest form of positive physical fitness to ensure continued health. I am convinced that certain sports such as running and jumping do not help at all in general health. This all round development demands extremely varied exercise so that an artificial pace-maker or trainer is not easy to find—another good athlete would do—but most people—ordinary would-be athletes—for whom this is written—cannot find the time or the companion for such exercise and training.



It's that 'Tiger' again! Although he doesn't claim hypnotic powers, he seems to have cast a spell over his second. One of the most unorthodox wrestlers anywhere, TIGER WOODS keeps the audience right on its toes from start to finish of a contest, and everyone should see him in action if possible. Life isn't complete without having seen this famous grappler.

The demands made upon my time by my work are so unpracticable that every arrangement I ever made with trainers did not last long and the trainer soon became either fed up or worn out or both.

But there is a happy ending to every story including this one. I have found the ideal pace-maker—the ideal chopping block for my training exertions—a companion who is always ready and runs faster than I can—can swim in the sea further faster and longer than I can—who will jump higher to catch a football bouncing back off the sea wall—who will climb quicker and more surely the most difficult cliff or rock climbing—who never gets bored with watching the grunting and groaning of weight-lifting and dynamic exercise, but will observe carefully and patiently.

My pace-maker simply revels in exercise—long may he live—my massive alsatian dog—Dulo—the finest athlete I have ever known.

"Not just now Mike, thanks!" If ever you are in Bradford, call in the Great Northern Hotel, Wakefield Road, and spend a pleasant evening with **MIKE DELANEY**, the fighting Irishman who has settled down in Bradford and moved into the hotel business.

HALF NELSON

WALLY SHAW, comparative newcomer to wrestling, is learning as he goes along—and learning fast too. Should be a force in the ring next season.

GURDA SINGH, well known Indian wrestler, who was in England a couple of years ago, and has since returned to India....Unscrupulously fair in his tactics, he was very popular with British audiences, and he left England with a very fine string of victories to his credit.

'We never miss a bout'

Says a Birmingham Fan

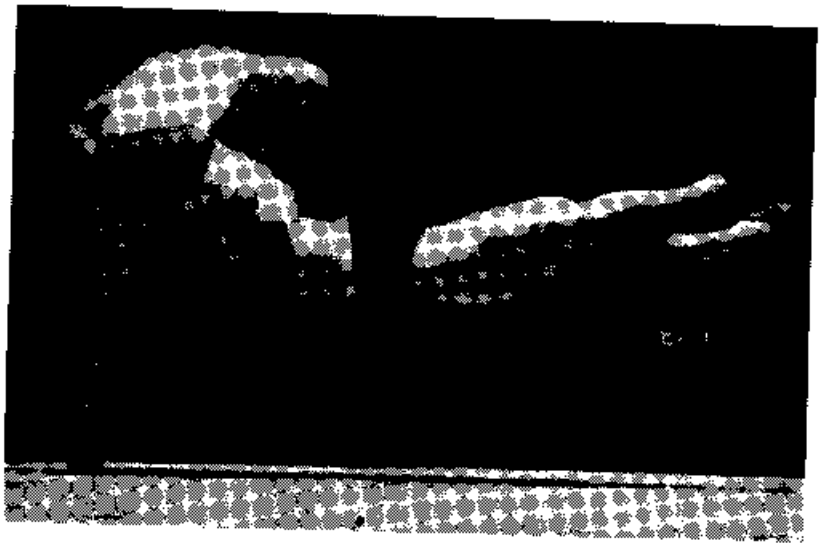
I WELL remember the first time I persuaded my husband to take us, my son and myself, to the wrestling. It was one Easter Tuesday, having just returned from a pleasant afternoon at the Birmingham Races, that I was glancing down the columns of the local evening paper when my eyes fell on a wrestling advert. I'd never been before, though I had often thought about it, so straight away I made the suggestion to my husband, and in a flash we were ringing up the booking office asking them to reserve three seats for us.

We finished tea, got into the car, and off we went to Erdington Hall, Birmingham, to witness our first wrestling contest. I shall never forget the first bout. My husband and son were so absorbed at seeing full size men throw one another around, that twice I spoke to them but got no reply. The evening passed on, and we were terribly impressed with the fine specimens of manhood who were in the ring. It amazed me how men could give and take all they did and still be breathing at the end of a round. I thought to myself, 'my goodness! if that had been me it would have been a pleasure to meet the undertaker!' Amongst the wrestlers who thrilled us with their superb wrestling were Count Bartelli and Charlie Scott, and since that lucky evening when we made our first trip to Erdington Hall, 'We Three' have never missed an evening. Every Tuesday, my husband, who is connected with the legal profession, has an early day from work so that we can all go to the wrestling, and recently I have persuaded my husband's secretary to come along with us. She is just as keen as we are now.

Certainly wrestling is not given it's full and right-

Mrs. HILDA COLLINS.

ful share of publicity. In my opinion it is a great sport, and it gives everyone the opportunity of seeing manhood at it's best, for I am sure the physiques of the contestants are something to be admired by all. There must be many members of my sex who wish that their figures and forms were half as good as the wrestlers. They have no'up-lifts' or other concealed garments to enable them to present a deceptive appearance, yet how really marvellous they look! Let us hope that the sport of the real 'he-men' receives the recognition it so rightly deserves.



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"Happy Landing!" We don't know who he is. Do you

Introducing that outstanding Canadian Athlete.....

JOFFRE L'HEUREUX

JOFFRE L'HEUREUX.

For some time Joffre has been recognised as Canada's Finest Developed Athlete. And with it, he has acquired a degree of strength that makes him one of Canada's strongest men.

By SYLVIO SAMSON.

ONE of the most, if not the most popular athlete on the Canadian agenda, is Joffre L'Heureux, the smiling, clean cut Police Chief of Huntingdon, Quebec. His versatility in athletics is the outcome of a youthful dream, when he was weak and sickly, to some day become a great athlete. This dream he has fulfilled after years of serious training in all sports, particularly building his body by the established practice of weight lifting. Out of it all he has built for himself a superb physique, so remarkable that he has won many awards for its symmetry and muscularity.

Like all strong men, he quickly turned to wrestling. He is ideally suited for the mat sport, and proved it by the manner in which he rapidly rose to supremacy in wrestling. His tremendous strength and amazing agility proved too much for the top matmen in this country, until he finally won the title, and wrestling championship of Canada. Since then he has constantly defended his title successfully, until recently, when he lost his belt in a fierce rough and tumble battle with the Naked Wrestler. However, this happens to all champions, otherwise they would not be human, and again it lends interest and excitement to the game to see a champion made fight harder for his crown. Joffre is training harder than ever for a return bout and we are more than likely to see him beat the former victor who took him off balance with his unusual rough tactics.

Joffre did not feel too bad over his loss. He is a game sportsman at any time, knowing that the unpredictable can happen. He just set his jaw a little more grimly and has got down to harder training with tougher training partners. He is as lithe as a snake, despite his phenomenal strength. His super speed makes his vast strength more dynamic in action. It is common to see his opponents squirming under the pain of his vice-like grip. His scissor hold is so wicked, his powerful legs nearly shear his opponent in two. He has tons of courage, and never lets up from the moment the bell goes to the fall. His fans are always sure of lots of exciting action.

Apart from his official police duties and his wrestling training he finds lots of time to teach youth, wherever needed, the precepts of physical culture, and of course, the tricks of wrestling. Consequently, Joffre is a prime favourite with all the youngsters in the country, and boy do they root for him!

Canada to-day has many of the finest wrestlers in the world. To be tops among them means a man must be extraordinarily

physically fit. This Joffre is. In authoritative circles he is considered to be of the calibre to make world championship grading. He has all that it takes. Strength, speed, agility, endurance, matcraft, courage and temper. All he needs now is the contact of experience with the top matmen in the game. These he is likely to meet in Montreal. Keep your eyes on Joffre L'Heureux. He is going places in the mat sport, and is a great Canadian you can be proud to root for.

Aged only 18, JEAN LANGLOIS, the son of the Montreal Chief of the Police, is already making a name for himself in athletic circles. Wrestling around Montreal, Jean is proving to be a great success. For a youngster, Jean has the makings of a champion.

LET'S GOSSIP—continued from page 7.

By the way, **BOBBY BRUNS** has been selected as the "Most Handsome Wrestler." Wonder what **"Glamour Boy STANLEE"** has to say about this?

Several decades ago, when **EUGENE TREMBLY** was Montreal's greatest wrestling sensation, his toughest opponent was **GEORGE BOTHNER** of New York. George is 80 years of age to-day, and still runs his gym for wrestlers on 42nd Street, New York, and is spry as a chicken. Trembly is still with us which shows that tough wrestlers never die young.

They say that **GORGEOUS GEORGE** was the highest paid grappler for 1949. His income came to over $200,000 and that ain't hay in any language.

It is claimed that wrestlers lose on an average between eight and twelve pounds in a single contest, but they recuperate quickly.

BILLY PARKS, the sizzling, junior heavyweight from North Bay, Ont., has just left Chicago, after a successful tour through the middle-west. He is back home now intending to stay there till the fall grappling session opens in Chicago. In the meantime he is keeping in top shape.

What is considered to be likely the most colourful match is to be fought out at the Midway Arena, Chicago, between the monocled **LORD BLEARS** and **FARMER DON MARLIN.** What a contrast in ring appearance it will be. The Lord enters the ring always wearing his monocle, and with his coat of arms splashed all over his robe. While Don steps between the ropes like a regular farmer, with washed out, sawed off overalls, and bare feet. That bout is going to be fun with lots of unusual action from two grapplers using different styles of wrestling.

Where next Rasslin' claims priority on television, and now wrestling contests are being staged monthly in the San Quentin prison for the benefit of the inmates. It'll be tough on the guards if some of them tough prisoners learn how to apply the Body Slam, or the Pile Driver.

Two holds that were applied on the invincible South American Champion, **TONY ROCCA,** were used to defeat him. **LOU THESZ** beat him with the airplane spin, and **McGUIRK** used the rolling leg lock. It shows you can never tell, though much depends on the wrestler who applies the hold.

You remember **MAN MOUNTAIN DEAN** You will soon here the name again in the personage of the son of the old Mountain. **Junior MAN MOUNTAIN DEAN** is a mere 24 year old stripling standing 6ft. 2in., weighing 329lbs. They say he packs the old man's wallop and charges his opponents like a Tiger Tank in high gear.

Promoter JOHNSON is rolling out the wrestling mat at the Yankee Stadium, with the feature wrestler being **FRANK SEXTON.**

ED DON GEORGE says he will never forget the time he wrestled a man 7ft. 2in. tall, and weighing 375lbs. He said, "Although the man was strong enough to push me so hard I fell over four tables and sprained my back and ankles when he leaned on me, yet I was fast enough, and tricky enough, to beat him."

THE ORCHID MAN, better known maybe as **GORGEOUS GEORGE,** has ninety-nine robes. He sends to Paris for his materials and designs which are of the very best. Do the gals envy the colours and quality when they see the Beau Brummell of the mat enter the ring. You bet! They would like to pinch one if he were not looking, but his valet always has a watchful eye for his wrestling master's robes.

JACK DEMPSEY, ex-boxing champion, is still the most popular wrestling referee in the game. Well, Jack's a swell fella anyway you take him.

● *READ ABOUT THIS BEAUTIFUL AMERICAN WRESTLER*

Miss Helen Hild

by Joseph H. Laiken

Helen poses for our photographer.

HELEN HILD, the 135lb. girl wrestler, has distinct beauty and possesses perfect poise and an even more perfect figure—if that be possible! When you first get a glimpse of this 20 year old blue-eyed blonde it sort of leaves you breathless, for she is the kind of girl you expect to see in movies—in which she already has been—or else in a bathing beauty contest —she's been in these too!—or perhaps as a professional model, and believe it or not, that's precisely what she was originally!

This five feet one inch beauty is one of those 'above the crowd' types. She could either be a show girl or a 'clothes-horse' as they say in modelling circles. She outshines some of the more publicised dollies of tennis and golf by far. Put Helen in a sports uniform or in a dining or an evening gown and you have a picture of youth at its best. And when she dons her wrestling outfit—usually blue—boy, oh boy, can you hear those wolves howl!!—She looks terrific.

But what about her wrestling, you might be asking! Well, Helen Hild can really wrestle. Yes sir! You don't hit the highlights in the sport unless you can, and Helen has certainly done that. She first came into public prominence in Austin, Texas, where here 27 inch waist-line and her beautiful figure attracted the gazes of many modelling scouts. Whilst still a youngster she was a majorette at the Omaha Technical High School, Nebraska, and about this time was a great roller skater, performing with one of the local shows in Omaha. Later she had parts in films, appearing as a slave girl in Arabian scenes, etc. Film work was a little irregular, so she rejoined her parents at Wilnslow, Arizona, where they operated their own restaurant. Her mother was in charge of this business, and at the same time her father was working on the Santa Fe route as a railroad engineer.

It was in Wilnslow that Helen had the misfortune to fall of a horse and break her arm, but Helen's misfortune was wrestling's gain, for it was due to the restrictions imposed upon her by this accident that she paid her first visit to the local wrestling stadium. There happened to be some of her own sex wrestling that night, and when she heard of the cash those girls made out of wrestling she thereupon decided that it was wrestling for her in future. Into training she went, and after a few weeks tuition she was ready to take on all comers.

Helen's first match was at Sedalia, Missouri, and since her debut she has travelled a long, long, way on the road to fame. She has been all over the U.S.A., and has been to many other countries as well. Quite apart from the handsome bank account that wrestling has brought her, she likes the sport because it has enabled her to meet many interesting personalities. "Wrestlers," says Helen, "are hard working people, who save their money, mind their own business. When they retire they nearly always do so with a good solid bank account behind them, and of course, whatever glory they have earned in their career." Well spoken, Helen!

When I asked her where she planned to settle down on retirement, she replied, "When that time comes, it's back to Wilnslow, Arizona, for me. It's a great place for young and old, and I'll be right back there when I'm through with wrestling, but that's not going to be yet awhile." And after my interview with this charming girl, I know quite well that those were very true words, for the fans wouldn't let Helen Hild consider retiring even if she wanted to.

Well, there you have it fans, the story of a girl who rose to mat fame from comparative obscurity. And in conclusion, I'd like to thank her for her co-operation in providing this exclusive story to readers of MAT.

Thanks a lot, Helen Hild!

We know many leading 'lovelies' who have quite a way to go to catch up with Helen.

SCARBOROUGH - Sports Arena
WRESTLING EVERY THURSDAY at 7-30.
All the great names appear here regularly.

PLYMOUTH . Beacon Park R.F.C.
Wrestling Every Tuesday Evening at 7-30.
Important Contests Presented Here.

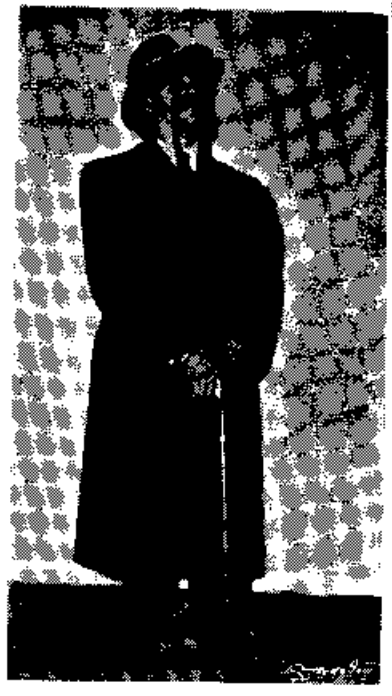
Edinburgh - The Eldorado Stadium
Wrestling Every Monday Night at 7-15 p.m.
Seats bookable at the Eldorado Stadium.

Ladies Pack Wrestling (from page 18)

Bankier's insistence that ladies should attend his wrestling shows brought its eventual reward. Today in Liverpool, wrestling takes place each Friday before packed houses, and the ladies are attending in ever increasing numbers. In chats I have had with the co-promoters, Billy Best and Benny Carter, they have always impressed on me that their main concern is to provide the best type of wrestling—fast and furious perhaps—but nevertheless the best. "We have to cater for hundreds of ladies now, bless 'em," said Benny Carter, "so naturally we are rather jealous of our reputation and we allow no freak exhibitionism—we have made a success of wrestling because it is wrestling and nothing else—and the ladies would be the first to complain if we altered our ideas."

This is rather a black eye for the critics, for there can be little wrong with a sport where ladies are attending in ever increasing numbers.

LORD BLEARS, a wrestler who has brought British athletes right into prominence in the U.S.A., where he has risen to the very top of the wrestling world. All over America there are "Lord Blears' Fan Clubs," and thousands of his supporters cheer him every time he steps into the ring. He visited England a short time ago and may be embarking on a world wrestling tour shortly.



"Man about town." LORD BLEARS, immaculate and polished, on his way to a symphony concert in New York.

★

At home with his famous Labrador retriever, LORD BLEARS relaxes over a pipe of tobacco.

Recalling one of the greatest victories of.....

The LION of the Mat

by JOE PLAIA

THE history of the grappling game is packed with more unusual characters, more drama, and tragedy, than any other sport. Some of its celebrities, like some of the contests are memorable. They never die, living in the minds of men from generation to generation as they are passed on in word, or story to each successive generation.

One of the most unforgettable monuments of the mat game, if not the most outstanding, was Georges Hackenschmidt, known in the far off days at the turn of this century as The Russian Lion. He wrestled in America, but very little. Most of his mat activity was in Europe, and the zenith of his career was climaxed in England, where he was recognised as the greatest wrestling hero of all time. Formerly, like all European wrestlers of that day he was only skilled in the Graeco-Roman style. The British, like the Americans, did not favour this style as it was too limited in its action, and too slow. Under the tutelage of Joe Carroll, the world's middleweight champion, who actually could toss any of the heavyweights, Hack learned the rudiments of catch-can wrestling, which is the original English, or Lancashire style of wrestling, where it originated. Hack, with his tremendous strength, and cyclonic speed, was an apt pupil, and quickly won the supreme crown in this style of grappling.

Hackenschmidt was a genuine, natural athlete. From the constant practice of body building under the expert eye of Count Krajewski, at Moscow, he transformed his natural powerful body into a veritable Hercules. He established with ease many world's weight lifting records which developed in him the strength to handle the bodyweight of any man with an ease that has never been seen since. Hack was an intelligent man, well educated. An engineer by profession, consequently he had the genius to absorb quickly the number of tricky holds, and their counters, which the wizard, Joe Carroll, was master of.

In those days, as to-day, there were many outstanding wrestlers of gigantic size and strength. I could mention a lot of them but they would mean nothing to you except to show that any man who won the world's title in the mat game did so by winning many gruelling contests. Also, any man worthy to obtain a match with the champion was of redoubtable size, strength, and courage. Among this group was one man whose gigantic strength, brutality, and fierceness on the mat made him a veritable sensation, the like of which we have not witnessed even to-day. His path to fame was strewn with great wrestlers he had bruised to a pulp. He was a household name, so that when he threw his challenge at Hackenschmidt, to wrestle for the world's championship, all of Britain was agog with excitement. This man was known as Madrali, the Terrible Turk. He towered many inches over 6ft. high, and weighed over 250 stripped. There was not an ounce of fat on his superb body, and the muscles rose and throbbed under his skin like waves in a stormy sea. His face was fiercely animal. As primitive as a caveman, which clearly showed he had the urge of the killer. Undaunted, Hackenschmidt, now the wrestling idol of Britain, accepted the challenge. The newspapers carried the story day by day in huge headlines. All England was in the throes of excitement to see these two gigantic giants of human man power clash in action. The bout was scheduled to take place at Crystal Palace, London, England. The biggest crowd in wrestling history turned out to witness it, with thousands being unable to get inside. Madrali entered the ring first, fiercely proud in his devastating strength, and confident in his record and ability to smash the Russian Lion to a pulp. The crowd gasped as they saw this huge swarthy Turk disrobe, and stand like a restless racing horse in his corner, eager to go. Then came the Great Georges. The crowd cheered until the rafters rung as their favourite climbed through the ropes. Despite Hack's massive physique he looked dwarfed in comparison with his powerful opponent. Madrali towered a foot over Hack. But when the latter stripped the fans cheered with delight. His powerful muscled body was tuned to perfection. He was ponderous as his measurements show. He stood 5ft. 8 tall, weighing

210lbs. He had a 52 chest, 22 neck, 18¾ biceps, thighs 26, calves 17¼, forearms 15½, and a waist measure of only 33. Just the same he looked like a little boy alongside of the Turkish giant when the referee had them both together, explaining the rules, before the bout startd.

I doubt if there ever was a match to equal it for fan excitement, and thrilling action. At the sound of the gong they sprang at each other like two enraged tigers. They put more cyclonic action into a few brief seconds than modern wrestlers do in hours. You could not tell who was who for the fast whirling medley of limbs and bodies. It was so fast no human could stand the pace long, and it did not last long. It ended with startling abruptness. In the bout each man picked up the other and hurled him to the mat like you would a baby, so great was their respective power, but Hack's super strength was clearly evident. He knew he had to smash the Turk into submission, which he did with a series of bone crushing holds into which he put all his strength. The crowd were hysterically mad. Never had they seen such an exhibition of primitive strength. Never such terrible mauling. Never such devastating speed. Out of it all Hack tore the Turk off his feet to arms length overhead and crashed him to the mat with terrific force. He was out in but a few brief minutes. So badly mauled was the Turk he could only stay a little over one minute with the Russian Lion, for the second fall. The fans went wild with with joy. Hack jumped over the ropes with delight at his conquest, but the Turk sat in his corner the most tragic figure ever seen. His head between his arms, and tears streaming down his cheeks. The unbelievable had happened. The Terrible—The Invincible Turk was beaten. He could not believe it himself, so sure had he been in his superhuman strength and savage atavistic tactics. He lay there a broken tower of strength, crushed to defeat by the superior strength and speed of a greater man. He never recovered from that mauling. He never wrestled again, but returned to his native country a disillusioned, and embittered, broken giant, while the great Hack, perhaps the strongest and fastest man that ever trod the mat rose to greater heights over other victories, remaining the idol of the wrestling world, to never be forgotten even in this day of super wrestlers.

. Britons Abroad .

MITCHELL GILL is back in England after a successful tour of Europe, in which he visited France, Switzerland and Austria. He spent several weeks in Vienna and competed in the European Wrestling Tournament which was held there under the auspices of the Internationale Meisterschaft von Wein, Oesterreich. Other wrestlers who took part in the tournament were the two New Zealand wrestlers, Russ Bishop and Ray Clark, and that fiery Welshman bearded Ken Davies. Gill gets all over the world on his wrestling travels, and this is not the first time he has wrestled in Vienna, where he is a staunch favourite with the local fans. From reports to hand it appears that Ken Davies rapidly established himself also, and was snowed under with offers to stay on in Austria for the coming winter wrestling season. He refused them all, however, as he wanted to get back to England and into training for the approaching season, during which we are told he hopes to settle a few old scores with certain people.

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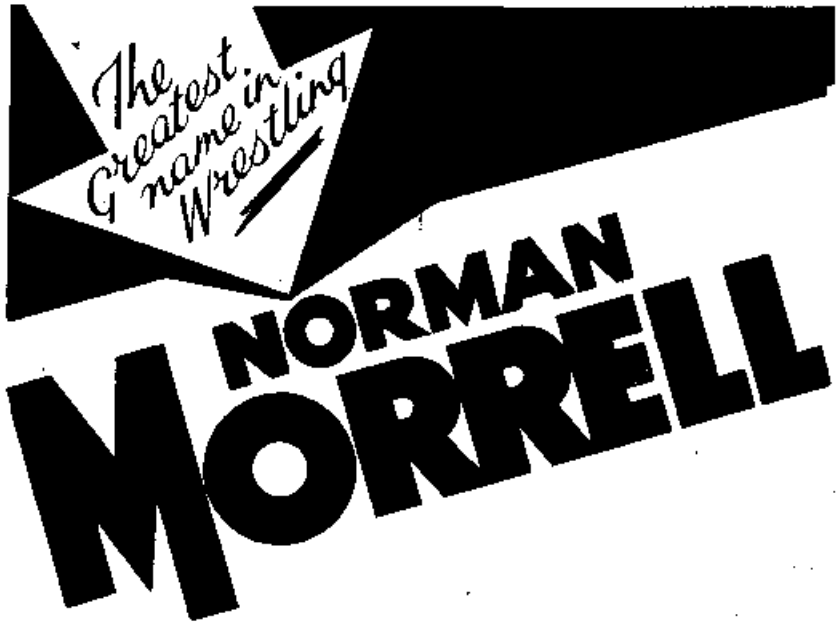

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